

State Water Resources Control Board

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Contact: Myrlys L. Stockdale
Robert Miller
916-341-5254

California First Lady Sharon Davis Presents First Place Environmental Award to Los Angeles Water Board

SACRAMENTO — California First Lady Sharon Davis today presented the first place Environmental Leadership Achievement Award to Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) employees for their efforts in preserving Los Angeles area waterways.

The award, sponsored by Keep California Beautiful, recognizes the Regional Board's efforts to develop Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards for trash. Trash can impair local waterways.

"The Regional Board has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to the preservation of water quality in the region, and is developing a national model for trash TMDLs," said State Water Resources Control Board Chairperson, Art Baggett.

The Regional Board has placed a high priority on resolving water quality impairments caused by excessive trash or litter. To help combat these impairments, the Regional Board has focused on the development of TMDLs.

A TMDL is a calculation of the amount of pollutant that can be discharged to a water body and still meet applicable water quality standards and an allocation of loads to dischargers. The TMDL, combined with an implementation plan, provides a strategy for restoring water quality.

During the past year, the Regional Board has adopted trash TMDLs for the Los Angeles River, and held public hearings in support of the establishment of TMDLs for Ballona Creek. In October 1999, the Regional Board became the first regulatory agency in the nation to establish a TMDL for trash when it implemented standards for the East Fork of the San Gabriel River.

In addition to public outreach efforts directly associated with the development of the trash TMDLs, the Regional Board, along with Keep California Beautiful and the University of California, co-sponsored a "Litter Summit" in December 1999. That conference focused on issues related to urban litter and its impacts to area waterways.

For more information on this and other water quality issues, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at: www.swrcb.ca.gov.

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The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>